

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 SSO-00 /050 W

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O 220002Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2828

INFO GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

SEC DEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

SEC ARMY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T PANAMA 0414

S/S-O PASS TO AMBASSADOR KOREN, CHAIRMAN, PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATION WORKING GROUP, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

SECDEF FOR ISA

SECARMY FOR DUSA

JCS FOR J5

FROM MINISTER BELL

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: US-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: LANDS AND WATERS USE

PANAMA PRESENTED ITS VIEWS ON LANDS AND WATERS USE TO AMBASSADOR BUNKER ON JANUARY 21.

COL. SWETT BRIEFED GENERAL ROSSON AND GOVERNOR PARKER TODAY ON THE PANAMANIAN POSITION AS WELL AS ON THE CORRESPONDING UNITED STATES PRESENTATION OF JANUARY 18. HE IS HAND CARRYING TO WASHINGTON TODAY A COPY OF THE PANAMANIAN VIEWS PAPER WITH ACCOMPANYING MAPS.

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NATURALLY THE TWO POSITIONS ARE DIVERGENT. BOTH ARE, HOWEVER, "STARTERS" SUSCEPTIBLE OF NEGOTIATION.

WE HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE THE PANAMANIAN POSITION IN ANY DETAIL, NOR TO PROBE IT IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THOSE POINTS ABOUT WHICH THE PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS FEEL MOST STRONGLY. IN THE FEW DAYS REMAINING DURING THE PRESENT NEGOTIATING ROUND, WE SHALL BE UNDERTAKING BOTH OF THESE ACTIONS.

PANAMA HAS AGREED TO PURSUE THE LANDS AND WATERS ISSUE BY NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, THOSE TALKS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO COMMENCE ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, AT WHICH TIME SOFA NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH WE EXPECT TO RESUME IN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY, JANUARY 27) SHOULD BE NEAR COMPLETION. AT PRESENT THE PANAMANIAN APPEAR TO BE CONSIDERING A TEAM HEADED BY AMBASSADOR GONZALEZ-REVILLA. IT WILL INCLUDE EDWIN FABREGA, WHO GAVE PANAMA'S ORAL PRESENTATION YESTERDAY. ON THE UNITED STATES SIDE, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT I WOULD HEAD OUR TEAM WHICH WOULD CONSIST OF SUPPORT GROUP MEMBERS AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM BOTH PANAMA CANAL COMPANY AND SOUTHCOM.

FOR THE PRESENT, THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE GREATLY BENEFITTED IF DEFENSE DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS COULD UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

(A) COMPARE THE UNITED STATES CATEGORY 5 POSITION AND WHAT PANAMA IS PREPARED TO OFFER THE UNITED STATES THROUGH SUPERIMPOSITION OF MAPS DEPICTING: (1) DEFENSE AREAS AND (2) CANAL OPERATING AREAS.

(B) COMPARE THE PHYSICAL SIZE OF THE TWO POSITIONS AS IN (A) ABOVE.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY AND SOUTHCOM, WHICH HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL IN THE LAST FEW DAYS IN PROVIDING VISUAL AID SUPPORT, COULD COMPLETE THESE ESSENTIALLY TECHNICAL MECHANICAL TASKS BY MIDAFTERNOON ON JANUARY 23 SO THAT THE NEGOTIATORS COULD USE THIS ANALYSIS DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK.

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OUR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS SUGGEST GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCOMMODATION OF DIVERGENT VIEWS WITH REGARD TO AREAS DESIGNATED FOR CANAL OPERATIONS THAN FOR DEFENSE. ACCORDINGLY, AND AS WE HAVE DONE WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO DATE, THE AMBASSADOR WISHES TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS FIRST ON THE AREA OF LESSER DIFFERENCE. THAT IS, WE SHALL PROBE PANAMANIAN INTENTIONS FIRST WITH REGARD TO CANAL OPERATING AREAS. THUS WE WOULD ASK

THAT YOU EXAMINE AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY THE FOLLOWING MATTERS,
ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE SHALL NOT NEED THE RESULTS UNTIL
WE ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE PANAMANIAN IN WASHINGTON.

(A) IDENTIFY IN AN APPROXIMATE ORDER OF PRIORITY VITAL AREAS OR
FACILITIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE PANAMANIAN POSITION. RESIDENTIAL
AREAS, COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES, AND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES SHOULD
BE FITTTED INTO THAT ENUMERATION.

(B) IDENTIFY HOW THE CATEGORY AS CONTAINED IN THE DOD POSITION
OF DECEMBER 20, 1974 (AS AMENDED BY OUR AGREEMENTS OF LAST WEEK)
FOR ANY OF THE FACILITIES IN (A) ABOVE COULD BE CHANGED OR
ALTERED. FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH OF THESE AREAS OR FACILITIES COULD
BE RELEASED OR SHARED IN WHOLE OR IN PART? HOW COULD PANAMANIAN
USE BE STAGED AT SOME POINT AFTER THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE
TREATY?

ULTIMATELY THE NEGOTIATORS WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY
OF ACCEPTING SOME ELEMENTS OF THE PANAMANIAN POSITION IN ORDER
TO OBTAIN THE LAND AND WATER AREAS WHICH WE JUDGE TO BE MOST
ESSENTIAL. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE ANY ALTERNATIVE SUGG-
ESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE FOR PROCEEDING IN THIS MANNER. FOR EXAMPLE,
IT MAY BE USEFUL TO REGARD THE PANAMANIAN POSITION AS THE
NUCLEUS OF A LANDS AND WATER CONFIGURATION WHICH WOULD SERVE
AS A GOAL TO BE REACHED THROUGH STAGES BY THE TREATY'S EXPIRAT-
ION?

THE AMBASSADOR WILL VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS, KNOWING
THAT THEY WILL BE NOT AT ALL EASY.
JORDEN

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